(d) what are the reasons for omitting the drugs from the list;

(e) whether his Ministry ascertained the reasons for the omission and if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) whether it is a fact that an expert committee has been set up to identify drugs for category I;

(g) whether it is also a fact that the list of all National Health Programmes have not provided to the committee; and

(h) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendations were made to the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in June/July(1987. Vaccines and Sera were not omitted from this list.

(e) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has stated that Vaccines and Sera were omitted on the consideration that availability of the drug is more important than price.

(f) to (h) Yes, Sir. A list of eleven identified National Health Programmes was provided to the Expert Committee.

Diabetic Control Programme

536. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not communicated the name of diabetic control programme to the expert committee for identification of drugs for category-I list;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that diabetes is one of the causes which lead to blindness;

(d) whether it is also a fact that control of blindness is one of the National Health Programme; and

(e) if so, what are the basis on which Government have not advised to identify drugs for control of diabeties?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (e) A list of eleven National Health Programmes identified for the purpose of categorisation of drugs under Category-I of the Drugs Prices Control Order, 1987; was communicated to the Expert Committee. Control of Diabetes does not figure in this identified list of National Health Programme. In very few cases diabetes, manifesting as diabetic retinopathy can lead to blindness. It is a fact that control of Blindness is one of the National Health Programmes whereas Diabetes has not been identified as such.

Procurement of drugs for National Health Programme

537. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4206 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that states are procuring and distributing drugs needed for National Health Programme out of the funds provided by centre and states;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large purchases of Betamathasone, Dexamethasone; Chloramphenicol, Framycetin; Gentamycin and Polymixin eye preparations are made for National Health Programme by different states;

(c) if so, what is the quantity of each procured by each state during last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what are the basis on which these drugs have been excluded from the list of Category-I?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Drugs for national health programmes are procured and distributed by the Central Government as well as the State Government.

(b) to (c) No such information is available with the Ministry.